



Warm-Up

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Name _____

The Invention of Basketball

Most sports don't have a specific date or place where they were invented. They often developed over many years from child's play or community games. Basketball, however, was invented in December 1891 by Dr. James Naismith. He was a physical education teacher at a school that is now known as Springfield College in Massachusetts. He believed that there needed to be an indoor game that could be played in the evenings and during the cold, snowy months of winter. Football was too rough to play inside. In addition, the offense in football could run with the ball. This required the defense to tackle and play rough. Football was a very dangerous college sport before the invention of modern protections, such as helmets and pads. Many college players were killed or badly hurt in the early years of football. However,

the basic idea of basketball is that it is to be played with skill rather than roughness.

The **original** game used seven men on each side and two peach baskets into which a ball was shot. The early game quickly became popular with college students. Oftentimes, there were many players on each side. The ball could not be kicked or carried. If a basket was made by one side, "time" was called while the ball was taken out of the basket by a coach or player with a ladder. By 1897, the game had changed, and five players were on each side. By 1912, the modern hoop, made of net with an open bottom, had replaced the peach baskets. Dr. Naismith laid out thirteen original rules for the game. Twelve of the rules are still used in the game today.

Check Your Understanding

- Which was *not* a reason for the invention of basketball?
 - Football was too rough and dangerous.
 - Basketball could be played indoors in cold weather.
 - Tall athletes needed a game to favor them.
 - Students needed safe, energetic exercise.
- What can you infer was the reason peach baskets were replaced with hoops?
 - The players didn't have ladders.
 - Stopping to retrieve the ball after a basket was made slowed down the game too much.
 - There were too many players in some games.
 - There weren't enough peach baskets.
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **original**?
 - invented
 - developed gradually
 - the beginning or the first of something
 - a copy of something
- How do you know that the basic idea of basketball has *not* changed?
 - Nearly all of the basic rules have stayed the same.
 - You still may not carry the ball.
 - It still uses a peach basket.
 - both a and b



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Name _____

Laura Ingalls Wilder: Pioneer Author

In 1930, a daughter of pioneers decided to write the story of her frontier life. She was sixty-seven years old. She wanted schoolchildren to understand how people lived during America's early days. In her first book, Laura Ingalls Wilder describes life growing up in a log cabin in the woods. The book was a great success. Wilder went on to publish seven more *Little House* books.

Wilder describes moving west in a covered wagon, as well as her life on the prairie. She describes living in a sod house on the plains. Wilder tells of thousands of hungry grasshoppers destroying their crops. She recalls the bitter cold winter on the plains. She helped her father twist hay to use as fuel for their fire because there was no wood to burn. The **author** describes her father's job building a railroad across the plains. Wilder painfully remembers her sister Mary's fever,

which led to her blindness. She recalls her own work sewing buttons in a store. *These Happy Golden Years* describes her experiences as a young schoolteacher in a one-room schoolhouse. Wilder even describes her own romance with the young man who became her husband. *Farmer Boy* tells the story of his boyhood on a farm.

Wilder's words paint a true picture of pioneer life on the frontier. They tell of the simple joys of family activities. They help readers experience education in a small country school. They record the heartbreaking pain and the dangers of the frontier. Each of her stories explains the sacrifices made by people who wanted to own their own land and home. Her books celebrate the pioneer spirit, which is an important part of America's history.

Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, which is the best synonym for **author**?
 - writer
 - artist
 - teacher
 - actor
- Why did Laura and her father twist hay?
 - They fed it to the cows this way.
 - They burned it for heat.
 - They used it to keep their beds warm.
 - They wanted to store it for the summer.
- Which of the following did Wilder describe about her life?
 - life on a farm in the woods
 - life in a prairie home
 - life on the plains
 - all of the above
- Which of the following is an opinion and *not* a fact?
 - Wilder wrote her stories in longhand.
 - Wilder's daughter typed her manuscripts.
 - Wilder wrote interesting stories.
 - Wilder's stories were about her own life.

